

Chapter 21: Writing reflective texts

Task 1

Below is one student's short reflection on the nature of evidence and the use of language.

What features make this a reflection rather than an essay?

Today's lecture discussed the idea that science is the most powerful form of evidence, and the way that this is reflected in language. As I am studying both biology and history, this is an important issue for me. Last week, I watched the 'The New Inventors' television program, and this raised the same issue. The program featured two inventors and their marketing people. I realised that to the marketing people the value of the invention was determined by whether it could be bought or sold. In other words, whether something was 'marketable' or not was a form of evidence. On the other hand, the inventors were very quiet, and only seemed willing to use technical language. They seemed to think that the use of an appropriate technical explanation was enough: nothing else was needed.

This difference made me think how communication skills are not generic, but change according to the discipline and the audience. The way I write in my history course, and the evidence I use is likely to be rather different from the way I use language in studying biology, and in what counts as evidence.